



City of San Marcos

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS

Keep San Marcos Beautiful **Crews Clean Up Graffiti on Cheatham Street**

City of San Marcos Parks & Recreation crews cleaned a warehouse on Cheatham Street that had been vandalized by graffiti tags recently.

According to Heather Powdrill, Community Beautification Coordinator, the City of San Marcos is dedicating more resources to graffiti removal.

In this case, the City contacted the property owner and within a week crews were able to remove the unsightly graffiti.



SODA BLASTER: Tony Abundo and Paul Zavala from the City Parks Department use this high pressure equipment that mixes non-toxic baking soda with air or water to remove graffiti.

“We may only have a small amount of graffiti on signs and buildings in our neighborhoods, but any amount is not an acceptable amount,” said Powdrill, who also coordinates Keep San Marcos Beautiful.

The city’s battle against graffiti has been improved by organizing and offering homeowners and property owners more resources to clean up unwanted scrawl.

Graffiti cleanup response time usually occurs within one day after graffiti has been discovered on public property.

Private property owners must sign a letter of agreement before City workers can enter and clean up graffiti. Once a letter has been signed, the clean up usually happens within a week.

Powdrill urged residents to report graffiti when they see it. "We need the public to be our eyes and ears," said Powdrill.

The city relies on residents to report complaints to Crime Prevention at 512.754.2270, Parks and Recreation at 512.393.8420 or by emailing graffiti sightings to graffiti@sanmarcostx.gov.



BLASTER: City Parks crew member Tony Abundo uses a soda blaster to remove graffiti from a warehouse on Cheatham Street.

The City of San Marcos began its Graffiti Abatement Initiative in 2008 with a goal to remove graffiti as soon as possible, encourage reporting of graffiti, recruit community partners to support the effort, and improve enforcement of graffiti laws. The City bought a soda blaster in 2008 to provide a safe and effective way to remove graffiti from surfaces.

Keep San Marcos Beautiful was begun in May of 2009 and is promoting graffiti removal throughout the community. The program also helps plan and coordinate the San Marcos River Cleanup, Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off (in partnership with Bobcat Build) and Adopt-a-Spot.

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